Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* The Kunnamkulam town limit is very close to the Vadakkancheri toll gate so that there is real hardship.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* There is always hardship in paying rates and taxes. I have perfectly understood that point.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* But this is a special case.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I do not see any speciality here. That taxation is vexatious and undesirable, is a proposition I am prepared to accept.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Has the Government come to any decision regarding the declaration of Pazhanji as a Town Council?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* That comes as the next question.

PALANJI TOWN COUNCIL—CONSTITUTION OF—REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST

28. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the approximate population of the area included or proposed to be included in the Palanji Town Council;

(*b*) the area proposed to be included within the Town Council limits in square miles ;

(*c*) whether representations were not made to Government by prominent citizens of the locality praying that Palanji may not be declared a Town Council ;

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) About 6,000.

(*b*) Roughly 3 square miles.

(*c*) Yes.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether the Government have taken any decision on the representations made by the leading citizens of Pazhanji with regard to the establishment of a Town Council there?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know the decision arrived at by the Government?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The decision arrived at is that this question must be looked into and

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proper measures must be taken. Further, there is a cut motion here brought forward by an Hon'ble Member of this House. I will be in a position to understand the attitude of this Council whether taking into consideration the result of the cyclone, this Town Council Act should be deferred there for sometime.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether there was not a Government notification declaring certain areas within Pazhanji as a Town Council already?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. The work was proceeding and it has almost been completed. That is the position.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* So, am I to take it that the Government are considering to withdraw that notification?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* That question does not arise. As I said, there is a cut motion with regard to this matter and when it comes up this matter can be discussed.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Is it the policy of Government to consult this House before any area is declared a Town Council?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* In exceptional circumstances it may be so. It may be my policy at least to consult the Council, because I derive my power and authority from this Council *(Hear, hear)*.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether this House was consulted when Kunnamkulam, Vadakkancheri and Nemmara were constituted as Town Councils?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. The Council gave me sanction to select areas and it is in accordance with that sanction that I have acted in the matter.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* If according to that sanction the Hon'ble Minister thinks he has right to declare any area as Town Council, why should he wait in this case for consulting this House?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Owing to the havocs produced by the recent cyclone—in spite of the laughing faces and side remarks—I thought that this question deserves further consideration.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether the cyclone has not affected Kunnamkulam, Nemmara and other places so as to justify the abolition of the Town Councils established there?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* That is a question you can move. That is a matter to be decided. There

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is difference between Town Councils already established and those that are to be established.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* The Hon'ble Minister has stated that Government have already constituted a Town Council in Pazhanji, and that the question of declaring it a town alone has been put off.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Government have taken necessary proceedings to constitute a Town Council. It is not an accomplished fact.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Sir, may I know whether the Town Council Act does not empower the Hon'ble Minister to consider all the relevant aspects before an area is declared a Town Council?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes, Sir.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Is not the cyclone one of those considerations which the Minister himself must take into account without consulting the House?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* There is no harm in expressing one's own view when a member brings forward a cut motion. I did not ask anybody to bring a cut motion. Nor did I persuade anybody to withdraw it. What I say is, more facilities and greater opportunities will arise to discuss these matters when that cut motion comes up.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* It is because the Hon'ble Minister was emphasising on the cut motion that I ask whether Government *suo moto* considered this aspect of the matter?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I am not prepared to answer that question.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Has the Government passed any orders on the matter?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Orders have been passed to stop further proceedings.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* May I know the reasons?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Because of the destruction caused by the cyclone, I thought there was no necessity at present of proceeding further in the matter.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Is that the only reason?

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Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* That was the main reason that influenced me to take this decision.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Are there any other reasons?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* There are other reasons also—petitions and things like that which we always get protesting against the constitution of Town Councils.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a Press statement that the Cochin Town Councils are going to be abolished?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Not to my knowledge.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether there was a proposal to take a referendum of the voters of the place in the matter?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Certainly not.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn to a Press statement in the *Madras Mail* stating that Government have already taken up that position?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sometimes paper correspondents gather information and they honestly come to certain conclusions which may later on prove to be incorrect.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* May I know, Sir, whether the Government have taken any measures to contradict that statement?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I do not think we have taken any measures.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* May I know the reason why it has not been contradicted?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* There is no necessity always to affirm or contradict these statements if newspaper correspondents go wrong.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Is not the Publicity Officer functioning now?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* He is functioning and is here now. Being a short man, probably you do not see him *(Laughter).*

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Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* When something incorrect appears in a paper about the doings of Government, is it not the policy of Government to contradict it then and there?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes, in important matters, it will be done so.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is not the question of Town Council a very important matter in the State?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It does not affect the position; because a certain statement is made in the *Madras Mail* or *Hindu*, it does not affect the course of events one way or the other in the least.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know what is the provocation, immediate provocation for the Hon'ble Minister to write in the *Cochin Argus* an article about this referendum?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* My desire to help my friend who is the editor of the paper. He requested me to contribute an article on "Town Council" and I accepted his invitation without receiving any payment *(Laughter)*. That is all.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* I do not complain that the Minister contributed an article. My point is why the Hon'ble Minister referred to this particular question of referendum? Was there any reason?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Because people were talking about referendum, I thought that that was a question which may be dealt with usefully in that article. I thought because our friend Mr. Iyyu was very persistent in talking about the referendum, I could give some information about the referendum by way of this article.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Can I take it from the Hon'ble Minister that this referendum question originated from popular talk or from the Governmental source?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* From popular talk—from Mr. Iyyu himself *(laughter)*, who is a source of all knowledge!!

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: റഫറണ്ടം എന്ന വാക്ക് ഉത്ഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത് കുന്നംകുളത്തു നിന്നാണെന്നു ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനറിയാമോ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* My friend Mr. Iyyu put this idea into my head.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* So, may I take it that Government had nothing to do with it?

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Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I constitute to a very great extent the Government so far as transferred subjects are concerned, and I say "no".

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* I never question your character of being Government. I wish that you are the sole Government so far as the transferred departments are concerned.

Mr. President: Are we not straying a little further from the question under consideration?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* The idea of referendum appeared in the *Madras Mail* a week before I met the Hon'ble Minister.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* You were spreading this propaganda in a wider circle. The correspondent of the *Madras Mail* might also have got this inspiration from you *(Laughter)*.

NEMMARA TOWN COUNCIL—BUDGET FOR 1116

29. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased—

(*a*) to print and place on the table of the House the budget estimate for the year 1116 of the Nemmara Town Council;

(*b*) when was the budget sent from the Council to Government for approval;

(*c*) whether Government had suggested any changes in the budget before approval?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) No regular budget was prepared and sanctioned for the Nemmara Town Council for this year.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Town Council President submitted to Government in Kumbham 1116 a formal budget for approval. But it was not sanctioned by Government, as it was thought that no purpose would be served by approving a budget at the end of the year.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether the Nemmara Town Council is permitted by Government to expend without a budget and to receive tax before preparing and sanctioning a budget?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* It is only stated here that no regular budget was prepared.

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